



## Brief Outline of Seattle City Council Budget Review Process

Fall 2010

The City Council Budget Committee consists of all nine Councilmembers. The Budget Committee will meet for a variety of budget-related sessions from late September through November.

1. **Department Presentations** – will be held Thursday, September 30 through Thursday, October 7.
  - Purpose of Department Presentations. Councilmembers will hear from select City departments about the major changes reflected in the Mayor's 2011-2012 Proposed Budget (and the effects of those changes). Councilmembers will ask questions about proposed changes and identify issues to be pursued. The chair of the relevant Council committee will lead the discussion for departments under the purview of that committee.
2. **Public Hearings** – will be held on Wednesday, September 29, 5:30 p.m., at the Northgate Community Center; on Wednesday, October 13, 5:30 p.m., at South Seattle Community College; and on Tuesday, October 26, 5:30 p.m., in Council Chambers (for this hearing only, call-ins and e-mails from the public will begin at 4:30 p.m.). The Budget Committee will take testimony on topics including the Mayor's proposed budget and proposed revenue sources. (See separate public hearing notices for more information.)
3. **Issue Identification Sessions** – will be held Friday, October 15 through Monday, October 25.
  - Purpose of Issue Identification Sessions: Council staff (Central Staff and Legislative Assistants) will present to Councilmembers an overview of key changes to departments, and highlight issues that may be of interest or concern to Councilmembers. Councilmembers will have an opportunity to identify issues and give guidance to staff on how to proceed. The chair of the relevant Council committee will lead the discussion for departments under the purview of that committee.
4. **Presentation and Discussion of Options (Round 1) Sessions** – will be held from Thursday, October 28 through Thursday, November 4.
  - Purpose of Round 1: Each individual issue will be scheduled for a time slot (including departments and issues that were not part of the Issue Identification sessions). Council staff will present information and options for all issues identified to date so that Councilmembers can review, discuss, ask questions, and provide direction to staff. Options might include adds or cuts to expenditures, changes in revenues, position changes, legislation, statements of legislative intent (SLIs), etc. No committee votes are planned during Round 1.
5. **Final Decisions and Votes (Round 2) Sessions** – will be held from Tuesday, November 9 through Friday, November 12.
  - Purpose of Round 2: Council staff will present information on any issues that were not heard in Round 1 or for which a Councilmember requested additional information, and staff will present any new or revised action sheets. Councilmembers will review, discuss, and ask questions about all issues. Votes will be taken in Round 2 on individual action sheets that are moved by a Councilmember (including those for budget legislation).
6. **Budget Committee Final Recommendation on Adoption of Budget** – Monday, November 22, 10:30 a.m.
7. **Full Council Adoption of Budget** – is scheduled for Monday, November 22, 2 p.m.